

BIENNIAL

1962/64
Summary

REPORT

of the

PENNSYLVANIA

GAME

COMMISSION

**A summary covering the
period from July 1, 1962,
through June 30, 1964.**



This report is full of dollar and number statistics—representing millions of hours of activity, not only by paid Commission people, but by dedicated deputies, sportsmen and other conservationists in pursuit of improved outdoor recreation for all of us. The statistics tell a good story—a story of encouraging progress by the Pennsylvania Game Commission in the biennium just completed. Our state continues as one of the finest all-around hunting states in the country.



GAME HARVEST

The following figures reflect total state-wide big game kills reported by successful hunters and total small game kills as tallied from estimates of field officers:

SPECIES	1962-63 SEASON	1963-64 SEASON
Deer, antlered	42,266	48,204
Deer, antlerless	30,647	36,212
Total Deer	72,913 (1)	84,416 (2)
Bears	554	280
Rabbits	939,405	975,259
Hares (snowshoes)	550	1,021
Hungarian Partridges	closed	closed
Squirrels	288,807	371,523
Raccoons	129,203	140,898
Wild Turkeys	15,775	13,608
Ruffed Grouse	56,143	63,472
Ring-necked Pheasants	449,090	448,025
Quail	19,766	13,307
Woodcock	17,089	22,806
Rails, Gallinules and Coots	3,893	6,693
Grackles (blackbirds)	no data	no data
Wild Waterfowl	44,533	58,508
Woodchucks	317,600	343,710
Doves	97,215	117,087

(1) Includes 1,310 deer killed during the 1962 archery season.

(2) Includes 1,388 deer killed during the 1963 archery season.

FINAN- CIAL DATA

Covering the two-year period, July
1, 1962, through June 30, 1964.

Cash on Hand Beginning Period	\$ 2,975,406.28
Cash Receipts	12,465,656.00
Total Cash Available	\$15,441,062.28
Expenditures	11,881,726.76
Cash on Hand Ending Period	\$ 3,559,335.52



Breakdown of expenditures:

	This Biennium (1962-64)	Previous Biennium (1960-62)
Land Management	\$ 4,891,501.88	\$ 6,256,800.18
Law Enforcement	2,689,512.62	2,272,053.58
Propagation	1,898,719.54	2,256,220.43
Administration	626,867.06	932,688.65
Other	1,775,125.66	1,813,442.24
	<u>\$11,881,726.76</u>	<u>\$13,531,205.08</u>

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Capital Assets	This Biennium As of 6-30-64	Previous Biennium As of 6-30-62
	\$9,235,440.63	\$8,446,861.05

LEGIS- LATION

The following is a capsule summary.

Changes in the Game Law . . .

Resident license fee raised to \$5.20, with junior rate of \$3.20 for hunters between ages of 12 and 16 inclusive. (Sec. 302)

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Nonresident license fee raised to \$25.35. (Sec. 303)

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Woodchucks may be killed June 1 through September 30 from 6 a.m. through 7:30 p.m., Eastern Standard Time. (Sec. 702)

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Commission may, by resolution, prescribe type of firearms or bow and arrow and type of ammunition to be used in any area of the Commonwealth in the interest of public safety and wildlife management. Any such action to be properly advertised by Commission. (Sec. 703)

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Foxes may be taken with aid of artificial lights such as are ordinarily carried in the hand or on the person. (Sec. 704)

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It is unlawful to use recorded calls or sounds or recorded or electronically amplified imitation of calls or sounds in wild turkey hunting. (Sec. 704)

• • •

Any person killing a licensed dog shall notify owner or Game Protector within five days. Owner shall be told time, place and circumstances under which dog was killed, be told location of remains and have returned to him all equipment found on the dog. Person who kills a licensed dog and fails to properly report it is subject to prosecution. (Sec. 717)

• • •

Persons owning, harboring or in control of dogs which pursue, injure or kill elk or deer subject to penalty of \$50 for

each elk and \$25 for each deer pursued, injured or killed. (Sec. 717)

• • •

County residents may petition Commission to permit fox hunting any time throughout the year except for 60-day period Commission may designate, with the agreed control to run from year to year, to be changed only by another legal petition from the county concerned. (Sec. 719)

• • •

Persons holding retriever trials may use trussed birds for trial retrieves; may hold trials any time of the year; must have proper permit from the Commission for each trial where game birds or animals are shot and killed and for all other trials held during normal closed training period, April 1 through July 31; and tags must be attached to all game used at retriever trials before released or killed. (Sec. 721)

• • •

Ten dollars fine and costs liability for persons hunting deer together, in unison or as a party of more than 25 persons. (Sec. 731)

• • •

Unlawful while hunting or trapping or on such open lands to leave rubbish or debris except in proper receptacles; to dig in or drive automobile on a cleared field except with permission; to leave automobile blocking ingress or egress to person's property, cattleways or fields. Liable to \$25 fine and costs. (Sec. 802)

• • •

Periods for hunting on regulated shooting grounds to be fixed by Commission without regard to general state-wide season periods, with periods so fixed to be certified to permit holders at least 30 days in advance of season. Excludes Sunday hunting. (Sec. 411)

ADMINIS- TRATION

LICENSE SALE

This is a breakdown of sales totals and revenues from licenses sold during the biennium:

1962-63 SEASON	REVENUE	1963-64 SEASON	REVENUE
Resident 926,976	\$2,778,585.00	820,800	\$3,917,291.25
Nonresident 48,872	961,311.65	40,956	1,024,614.00
TOTALS .. 975,848	\$3,739,896.65	861,756	\$4,941,905.25

(Of 820,800 resident licenses issued in the '63-64 license year, 111,644 were junior licenses, sold at \$3.20. The junior license is sold under the new rate structure to hunters 12 through 16 years old. The regular resident license fee is now \$5.20. The nonresident fee is now \$25.35. The new schedule of license fees became effective for the 1963-64 license year—that is, September 1, 1963. Former license fees were: \$3.15 for resident and \$20 for nonresident hunters. There was no separate junior rate.)

MISCELLANEOUS LICENSES

In this biennium, 66,045 archery licenses were sold for the 1962-63 season and 64,327 for the 1963-64 hunting season.

Antlerless deer licenses, issued on a county allotment basis by the Commission as a herd management approach, totaled 201,431 for the 1962-63 season and 204,068 for the second season in the period.

ACCIDENTS AFIELD

The Game Commission continued during this period to pursue a vigorous hunter safety program, particularly with young hunters. We believe this approach is showing significant results in reduction of total hunting fatalities and nonfatal accidents. During the two-year period, there were 34 fatal and 776 nonfatal accidents in Pennsylvania. Comparatively, there were 50 fatal and 979 nonfatal accidents reported during the previous two-year period.

Even more meaningful, we believe, is the fact that the rate of accidents, based on number of hunters afield, has been sharply reduced since inception of our intensified hunter safety program. Over a 40-year period, 1924 to 1963, there was a fatal accident for every 21,457 hunters afield; in the last two years this rate has been cut in more than half—a fatal accident for every 54,047 hunters.

PERSONNEL PROCUREMENT AND TRAINING

The total of salaried and hourly employees of the Commission increased with expanding programs during this biennium from 693 to 743. With the passage of Act 520, 278 positions were added to the Classified Service.

The Commission's Eleventh Student Officer Class was graduated in this period, adding 18 highly qualified Game Protectors to our field staff. Various other intensive training programs for both Game Protectors and Deputy Protectors were conducted throughout the period.

LAND ACQUISITION AND MANAGEMENT



ANNUAL MAINTENANCE—Maintenance on Game Lands and leased lands covered 5,000 miles of boundary line, 1,500 miles of forest road, 750 miles of fire trails, refuges and special training areas totaling 95,000 acres, as well as 319 buildings and all road gates, signs, trucks, farming equipment and 2,500 turkey feeders.

CONSTRUCTION WORK—During this biennium 51.9 miles of roads were built and 53 bridges, six steel buildings, one steel corncrib, 12.1 miles of fire trail, 756 turkey feeders and 76 parking areas were constructed by the Commission. In addition, seven small marsh impoundments and 2,700 feet of dike were completed and 59,962 feet of drain tile were installed.

FOOD STRIP AND OPEN FIELD MANAGEMENT—The Food and Cover Corps cleared 338 plots totaling 610.5 acres of reverting fields and forest areas. In addition, 3,088 plots totaling 5,253.5 acres were planted in grasses, grains and legumes. Also, 1,245 plots totaling 1,764.4 acres were seeded in cover crops to improve wildlife habitat. Surplus grain harvested from Game Lands plots and fed to wildlife at other locations amounted to 12,866 bushels. The Commission left 3,506.1 acres of Game Lands grain unharvested for use by wildlife.

Sharecroppers planted 10,472 acres on Game Lands in grains and 1,121 acres in legumes and grasses. From this activity the Commission received 38,980 bushels of grain. More than 5,339 bushels of grain were left unharvested for wildlife use.

The Food and Cover Corps also mowed 16,373 acres of old field areas and food plots, limed 3,276 acres, fertilized 4,842 acres and removed surface stones and roots from 1,949 acres.

SEEDLINGS AND TRANSPLANTS — On State Game Lands, 749,550 evergreens and 2,126,900 food and cover producing shrubs were planted, while Game Commission personnel planted 127,400 evergreens and 151,050 shrub seedlings on Farm Game Projects. The Howard Nursery, during this biennium, released 10,534,000 tree and shrub seedlings to the six divisions.

TIMBER SALES—The sale of various forest products improved food and cover conditions on 18,000 acres of Game Lands while providing revenue to the Game Fund of \$213,756.01. Products removed: 4,989,639 board feet of sawlogs, 16,095 tons of mine timbers, 24,593 cords of pulpwood, 98,371 posts and 50 Christmas trees.



WINTER FEEDING—Commission personnel fed to wildlife and furnished to sportsmen 173,351 bushels of ear corn. A total of 4,101 bushels of other grain was also fed and 47,670 pounds of salt were placed for deer use.

WOODLAND CUTTINGS—Game Lands cuttings covering 7,553.5 acres included thinning of timber stands, clear cutting and pushing over of forest growth with bulldozers. An additional 326,918 food or cover producing trees, shrubs or vines were pruned or released. A total of 2,196 acres of woodland border was cut and 431 acres recut.

Another cutting program in cooperation with the Department of Forests and Waters accounted for 1,114.6 acres of immediate browse and new growth area.

ALLEGHENY NATIONAL FOREST—Work in this forest, in accordance with an existing agreement, continued with the following results: 11.2 acres of food strips cleared, 210.2 acres planted and various other plots cut, fertilized, etc.

FARM GAME COOPERATIVE PROGRAM—This program added 337 farms during the biennium totaling 65,581 acres. Now under the program (as of June 30, 1964) are 12,217 farms in 53 counties totaling 1,360,789 acres. Farm

Game Cooperators received 3,849,550 seedlings for food and cover plantings. Commission personnel planted over half a million seedlings and cut more than 2,000 acres of woodland border on these farms during the period.

SAFETY ZONES—The safety zone program opened an additional 2,908 farms totaling 499,760 to hunters during the period, for a grand total of 9,685 farms containing 1,645,330 acres opened to public hunting during the '63-64 season.

NEW LANDS—The Commission acquired for hunters during the two years 18,698.170 acres of new lands. This brought total Game Lands to 989,638.225 acres as of June 30, 1964. Purchases completed during the period amounted to \$560,969.76.

FEDERAL AID—The Commission received during the biennium \$1,108,666.86 in Federal Aid to Wildlife Restoration Funds. These funds were spent for habitat improvement on Game Lands, Cooperative Farm Game Projects, private land and other state and federal land. To this amount, the Commission added \$369,555.62, making a total of \$1,478,222.48 spent in Federal Aid development and acquisition projects during the biennium.

DIVISION OF MINERALS

OPERATIONAL DATA:

Royalties from natural gas	\$184,203.80
Bonus and rent from oil/gas leases	253,509.74
TOTAL	\$437,713.54
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Surface damage royalty from coal stripping	\$ 70,518.78
* * * * *	
Income from fire clay leases	\$ 7,502.52

RESEARCH I

The Division of Research is the fact-finding arm of the Commission, engaged in biological studies to acquire more knowledge about wildlife and its environments in Pennsylvania. Information compiled is used to better manage the state's wildlife resource for improved and expanded recreation and to solve conflicts between wildlife and various agricultural and forestry interests.



Several projects have been in progress through the period; as each study is completed it will be reported in extensive detail. For purposes of this report, only progress made during the biennium is summarized.

During the period 9 Commission biologists worked on one or more of the following research projects:

WHITE-TAILED DEER STUDY—Feeding experiments indicate poor diet results in low reproductive vigor, poor antler development. Natural foods studied in the field. It has been found that, for best browse production, complete severing of tree trunk, with slash left in place, is superior to herbicides, cut-and-bend or girdling. Life history and population dynamics continue under study.

RING-NECKED PHEASANT STUDY—Band recoveries indicate that fall-stocked cocks contribute more direct return to hunter than spring-released males. Hay-making nest destructions constitute major nonseason drain on pheasant population. Korean pheasants liberated in hard winter areas surviving winter and reproducing in wild in small, but encouraging numbers, where other stock failed to stay in environment successfully.

WILD TURKEY STUDY—Study of turkey's ability to withstand gunning pressure has resulted in better distribution of shooting through control of season lengths. Data gathered to date indicates big winter feeding operations seem justified only during extreme weather emergencies. Experimentation shows wild-trapped birds better than propagated stock for establishing or re-establishing populations in problem areas.

Other research studies involved waterfowl, woodcock, snowshoe hares, cottontail rabbits, habitat development evaluation and experimental management of the Conemaugh River Reservoir. Various phases of Commission research were conducted in cooperation with personnel of Pennsylvania State University, the Department of Forests and Waters, U. S. Forest Service and the U. S. Soil Conservation Service.

PROPA- GATION



The Commission continued operation of three game farms for pheasant propagation, and one each for turkeys, bobwhite quail and wild waterfowl during the biennium. A summary of game released resulting from operation of these farms and other programs follows:

PHEASANTS

Raised on Game Farms	192,815
Purchased from breeders	67,952
Chicks raised by sportsmen and farmers	349,912
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TOTAL PHEASANTS RELEASED	610,679

TURKEYS

Raised at Turkey Farm and released	9,267
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TOTAL TURKEYS RELEASED	9,267

COTTONTAIL RABBITS

Rabbits trapped and transferred to open country	103,725
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TOTAL RABBITS RELEASED	103,725

WATERFOWL

Mallards reared at Waterfowl Farm and released	21,002
Canada geese reared, purchased and released	722
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TOTAL WATERFOWL RELEASED	21,724

QUAIL

Quail reared at Game Farm and released	20,853
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SNOWSHOE HARES

Purchased and released	943
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EDUCATION AND

The Division of Information and Education conducted an extensive series of projects during the biennium designed to spread knowledge of Commission management activities, disseminate information about Pennsylvania's wildlife and its habitats, and further the conservation education goals of the Commission.

Regular news releases about Commission programs, season openings and other topics of current interest to outdoorsmen were mailed to state news media and outdoor writers and columnists. The release media list includes 291 papers, 136 TV and radio stations and 71 outdoor writers. The DRUMMING LOG, a monthly newsletter begun during the biennium, carries news about Commission personnel to 1,800 salaried officers and deputies as well as retired officers.

The Division continued to offer a number of paid and hand-out literature pieces on request. More than 10,000 requests for information were answered with literature. Several thousand letters were written by staff members in reply to inquiries.

Commission personnel presented or participated in more than 14,000 programs and speaking engagements before more than one million people in the period, including 7,400 film showings to over 900,000 people. TV stations also made extensive use of Commission-supplied films.

The Commission produced two major 16-mm. color films during the biennium which combine to portray the history and management of the white-tailed deer in Pennsylvania. Twenty-one prints of this film along with many other films are getting regular use. The Division produced many photos and transparencies and other visual aid materials used in displays and publicity material.

Pennsylvania GAME NEWS, official monthly news and feature magazine of the Commission, continued its strong upsurge in circulation. GAME NEWS paid circulation rose from 76,681 to 102,478 during the biennium. The publication is now the most exten-

INFORMATION

sively circulated magazine of its kind in America. Additionally, 28,000 copies of GAME NEWS a month go to Farm-Game and Safety Zone Cooperators, legislators, state and federal agencies, schools, libraries and outdoor writers.

The state's very successful Hunter Safety program prospered during the two-year period, with 1,872 new instructors certified and 21,575 students, mostly junior hunters, taking the course. The program has been strongly publicized by all the methods and media available to the Commission, and sportsmen's and conservation groups have embraced Hunter Safety programs strongly.

The Division put together 13 major environmental exhibits of Pennsylvania wildlife during this biennium. These exhibits were shown at a series of shows having total attendance of more than 3,000,000 people. With the addition of smaller exhibits maintained or built, more than 5,000,000 people were exposed to Commission displays in the two-year period.

The Commission also continued financial aid to various institutions and organizations engaged in conservation education programs. The Commission made recognition awards among organizations and contributed staff participation for schools and numerous conservation education camps and courses.



LAW EN- FORCEMENT

The Commission prosecuted 10,317 cases resulting in penalties paid of \$357,-798.25; a total of 2,695 licenses were revoked as a result of prosecutions.

The Commission paid \$7,253.96 in bear damage claims, spent \$19,137.89 on deer-proof fence and paid the following bounties:

Gray foxes	17,436	\$ 69,744.00
Red foxes	30,407	121,628.00
Great horned owls	2,283	11,415.00
TOTAL BOUNTY PAID		\$202,787.00

The following revenues were received under the Division of Law Enforcement during the biennium:

Permits for taxidermists, propagators, fur dealers, etc.	\$60,887.00
Sales of furs	\$ 1,394.10
Sales of firearms	\$ 2,901.98
Deerskins—7,743 sold (three years)	\$18,359.41

Other statistics from the Division of Law Enforcement:

Division had 1,379 Deputy Game Protectors on July 1, 1964.

Thirteen new taxidermists passed licensing examination.

Campaigns by salaried officers resulted in elimination of 54,546 predators.

Also, increased use of the state-wide radio net has strengthened the Division's enforcement program and enabled its men to render assistance in times of emergency.

Respectfully submitted,

H. L. Buchanan, president

C. F. Hockersmith, vice-president

James A. Thompson, secretary

Brig. Gen. Nicholas Biddle

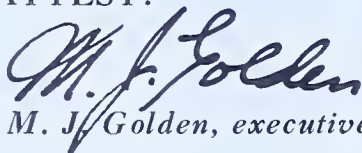
Russell M. Lucas

R. G. Smith

**Loring H. Cramer*

**Frederick M. Simpson*

ATTEST:



M. J. Golden, executive director

**Loring H. Cramer, Stroudsburg,
Monroe County, confirmed March
11, 1963.*

**Frederick M. Simpson, Huntington,
Huntington County, August 2, 1963,
confirmed March 31, 1964.*